

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and the rejection of claims 1, 3-5 and 7-13 is respectfully requested. Applicants have attempted to address every objection and ground for rejection in the Office Action dated November 2, 2004 (Paper No. 20041029) and believe the application is now in condition for allowance. The claims have been amended to more clearly describe the present invention.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 14, 15 and 17-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features of canceled claim 14. Claim 17 has been converted into an independent claim in accordance with this suggestion. Claims 18 and 19 (which depends from claim 18) remain unchanged, because claim 18 was already written in independent form.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grossi et al. (FR Pat. No. 1,057,283) in view of Fevas (U.S. Pat. No. 2,385,501). In view of the indication of allowability of claim 14, features of which are now incorporated into claim 1, the rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 7-9 and 11-13 under Section 103 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grossi et al. in view of Fevas and further in view of Cheng (U.S. Pat. No. 5,336,159). The arguments set forth above for Grossi and Fevas are reasserted here. Applicants submit that since claim 10 depends from amended claim 1, now submitted to be

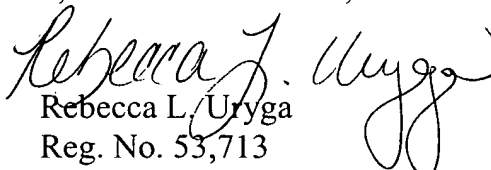
allowable, it is also allowable. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 10 under Section 103 is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that in view of the above-identified amendments and remarks, the claims in their present form are allowable. Allowance of the objected claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, an invitation is extended to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 5, 2005

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